

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, District No. 2

A **meeting** of the Committee on Community Services, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on **Monday, January 24, 2011** in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 7:48 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Timothy J. Callanan, Council District No. 2; Committee Member Committee Member Robert O. Call, Jr., Council District No. 3; Committee Member Cathy S. Davis, Council District No. 4; Committee Member Dennis L. Fish, Council District No. 5; Committee Member Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council District No. 7; Supervisor Daniel W. Davis; Ms. Nicole Ewing, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

Chairman Callanan: "I'd like to call the Community Services meeting to order. First on the agenda is the approval of minutes from November 8, 2010."

Committee Member Fish: "So move"

Committee Member C. Davis: "Second"

Chairman Callanan: "We have a motion and a second. Are there any corrections to these minutes? (No Response) With no corrections, all those in favor signify by saying Aye? (Ayes) Opposes Nay? (No Response) The minutes stand approved as presented."

It was moved by Committee Member Fish and seconded by Committee Member C. Davis to **approve** the minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Callanan: "First on the agenda is Ms. Stacey Thomas regarding a Pavement Rejuvenation – Aircraft Parking ramp and hangar area."

A. Ms. Stacey Thomas, Airport Manager, Re: Pavement Rejuvenation – Aircraft Parking ramp and hangar area, SC Division of Aeronautics Project Program. (\$8,525.00 matching funds to come from Economic Development).

Ms. Thomas: "Good evening. I'm here seeking Council's approval to participate in a State...."

Committee Member Pinckney: "Move for approval"

Committee Member Fish: "Second"

Chairman Callanan: "We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion? Just so everyone knows, the matching funds is \$8,525.00 on this and that comes out of Economic Development. Correct?"

Ms. Thomas: "That is correct."

Chairman Callanan: "All right, I just want to make sure everything's out there. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? (Ayes) Opposes Nay? (No response) The motion carries."

It was moved by Committee Member Pinckney and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **approve the Pavement Rejuvenation – Aircraft Parking ramp and hangar area, SC Division of Aeronautics Project Program. (\$8,525.00 matching funds to come from Economic Development).** The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Callanan: "Next on the agenda is consideration of expanding or increasing transparency in regard to three areas. First is revenue and expenditures. Second is posting salaries on County website and third is making direct audio feed available."

C. Consideration of expanding and/or increasing transparency in regard to:

1. Revenue and expenditures.
2. Posting salaries on the County Website.
3. Make direct audio feed available.

Ms. Austin: "Mr. Chairman? Did you skip one?"

Chairman Callanan: "No, I'm going to go back to that one."

Committee Member Pinckney: "Mr. Chairman. In all due respect, while you were out, this was covered under the Finance Committee."

Chairman Callanan: "Actually there is no revenue that is required for any of these so it wouldn't have to be on the Finance Committee."

Committee Member Pinckney: "Ok, I stand to be corrected."

Chairman Callanan: "The issues I just wanted to bring them up for discussion."

Council Member Schurlknight: "Mr. Chairman, if you look at the definitions of the Committees, my challenge is I don't see where any of this would fit under the definition or it would fall under the Committee for Community Services. I would like to have a legal opinion on that."

Council Member S. Davis: "And I'm not a member of the Committee, but I concur for his challenge."

Chairman Callanan: "All right. Let's keep the comments to the members of the Committee. Thank you."

Council Member S. Davis: "So you are restricting non-members can't speak on your Committee?"

Chairman Callanan: "I'm restricted as well at other Committees."

Council Member S. Davis: "No, there has been no restrictions so far tonight. All County Council members have been afforded the opportunity to participate on all County Committeeships. The only issue is non-voting, but all County Council have been extended the courtesy to render their input on all Committeeship."

Chairman Callanan: "Is that written in the rules anywhere or is that kinda of a"

Council Member S. Davis: "We hope that as a nice courtesy that goes from one chairmanship to the next, but if you don't want to extend that courtesy, well, I understand."

Chairman Callanan: "Well, I'm willing to do it if you are willing to put it in the rules."

Council Member S. Davis: "We will put it in the rules when we have a full County Council meeting. That is the only appropriate place we can do it."

Chairman Callanan: "Ok. So, it is my understanding is that we don't even want to discuss these issues of expanding or increasing transparency with regards to these areas....."

Council Member Schurlknight: "Mr. Chairman, if I am allowed to speak?"

Chairman Callanan: "Yes, Mr. Schurlknight"

Council Member Schurlknight: "Thank you sir. Mr. Chairman, in the Finance Committee, this was brought up about 10 months ago. It was still in my Committee. I'd appointed a sub-committee. There seemed to be some misunderstanding on dates or whatever to call that committee together. At the Committee meeting tonight it was agreed that Ms. Cathy Davis will continue to Chair that sub-committee. We have three staff members on that along with myself and hopefully Mr. Dennis Fish will also serve on that committee and we will be looking at all these issues, the monies, everything to get it done and have a report back to this full body at our meeting in February. That's kinda the update on what transpired in the Finance Committee tonight. Thank you."

Committee Member Call: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Callanan: "Mr. Fish"

Committee Member Call: "No....."

Chairman Callanan: "Excuse me, I'm the Chairman. Mr. Fish had requested next...."

Committee Member Call: "I'm sorry, I didn't hear Mr. Fish."

Committee Member Fish: "This has been an issue for a long time and the Chairman of Finance didn't follow up on his manager responsibilities to be sure they met. It is so simple that all we simply want to do is post that stuff, post the revenue expenditures, post the salaries. It has become, until recently that the people that were videotaping the meetings weren't able to hook into an audio feed. I would make a motion that we accept this and move forward."

Council Member Schurlknight: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Callanan: "I have a motion to accept this and move forward. You have the votes to deny in general, in a Council meeting."

Council Member Schurlknight: "Well I hope it wouldn't get to that. I would hope we could discuss this issue out directly on that. I will proceed in Finance to get this taken care of in the sub-committee and hopefully Mr. Fish will serve on that sub-committee with us. He just mentioned about the photographer being denied access feed hooking in to film these meetings. I would like to know who denied him access. I think that would be a Council decision and I for one, have never been aware of a request for that."

Chairman Callanan: "My one point on this is it is very simple items here. We are talking about simply posting salaries like our sister county, Charleston County does online. It's not something that I think is extremely complicated that it has to go to a sub-committee process. Anyone can FOIA this information. We are just trying to save them the steps so that people know, so people can have easy access to this information. With regards to trying to find direct audio feed to the audio output of the PA system here, I don't think that is complicated at all, however, if you want to go with regards to revenue and expenditures, we already do that for the most part, although we delete the previous 12 months every time a new fiscal year comes along and we don't include all expenditures in there and I'm just asking to expand that. I didn't think it was a earth moving request that would require a sub-committee to be appointed, however, I'm willing if I have an assurance that I can get a report back and this can be brought back into Council by next month's meeting to concede all of these and table them."

Committee Member Call: "Mr. Chairman?"

Council Member Schurlknight: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Callanan: "Mr. Call"

Committee Member Call: "I think it is a mis-characterization about the Chairman that we don't want to discuss these issues. I think it is a matter that the Committee....it's the Committee's desire that it be placed under the proper Committee for discussion."

Chairman Callanan: "And it's a fight....."

Committee Member Call: "If you will let me finish. It appears that over the objections of the Committee that you are proceeding to discuss these matters anyway. Thank you."

Supervisor Davis: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Callanan: "Mr. Davis"

Supervisor Davis: "I just want to point out there are some complications with the request. I, personally, don't think that anybody doesn't want to do this. I think to not to do it would be political suicide. So, I don't think the matter is that everybody doesn't want to do it. But, for example, there are some funds that the request that all funds, all expenditures of the County be posted. We don't have control over all of those. There is going to have to be some negotiations with like for example, some elected officials who control their funds. Those are issues that need to be addressed. There are some issues with IT. I'm not sure what they all are, but I know they just need to express to somebody that it might cost a little bit of money and what the issues are. I think that it would be a good exercise. We waited, as I pointed out earlier, you know that the County has had the ability to broadcast this on the cable services. We don't have the ability to broadcast anywhere else, I don't think. But at least with the cable services, we have had that ability for 20 years. It has never come up before at least as far as I know and certainly not since I've been here. So, I think waiting a month or two just to discuss the issues that we've identified, I don't think is going to cause a great amount of concern."

Chairman Callanan: "And I don't think it is going to cause a great amount of concern either. It is just I want to make sure that it's a month because if you recall back in the earlier part of the year and excuse me, I was not here for the Finance Committee. Some promises were made about gathering members of staff and that was never followed up on by the Chairman of Finance and I just want to make sure that this made a priority now that it has been six months. As long as we have the agreement that it is a priority and that it will be addressed expeditiously I have no problem withdrawing these."

Council Member Schurlknight: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Callanan: "Mr. Schurlknight"

Council Member Schurlknight: "If you were at the Finance meeting tonight...."

Chairman Callanan: "Which I am not a member."

Council Member Schurlknight: "Well, you are invited to sit in for information and to give us some feedback as we discuss things. That is what we are trying to solicit. I hope everybody takes advantage of that. But you would have heard Ms. Davis's reasoning and also my reasoning. All that was is a breakdown of communication. I didn't think hinging on me naming three staff members would prohibit her from calling a meeting. She didn't want to call a meeting evidently until I named those three staff members. Anyway, I think both of us shouldered that and move forward from here. You sit there and you wanting assurance of this and assurance of that. The only thing I'm going to tell you is we are going to report this thing back as soon as we can. Our target date is February, but we are going to get back with this body and we are going to put this thing to rest and we are going to have this transparency initiative behind us. Thank you."

Chairman Callanan: "With that, under that understanding, I'm willing to remove these and table these or withdraw these from my agenda. Next on the agenda is Mr. Frank Carson regarding the Letter of Intent with Charleston Water System about the proposed Hanahan Branch Library site."

B. Mr. Frank Carson, Berkeley County Engineer, Re: Letter of Intent with Charleston Water System, proposed Hanahan Branch Library site.

Mr. Carson: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the 2009 General Obligation Bond there were funds allocated to a new branch library in Hanahan. We've looked at a few sites in Hanahan trying to come up with a central location and meeting some other criteria and we approached Charleston Water System about what is going to be a remainder parcel when the Murray Boulevard is realigned at Railroad Ave. and they are willing to look into that sale and they have asked for a Letter of Intent in order to initiate an appraisal on that property."

Committee Member Pinckney: "So move"

Chairman Callanan: "I have a motion. Do I have a second?"

Council Member Farley: "I live in Hanahan, but I can't vote in this Committee."

Council Member S. Davis: "I've got a gag order on me so I can't even speak."

Committee Member Call: "I'll second it."

Chairman Callanan: "Ok, I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?"

Committee Member Fish: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Callanan: "Mr. Fish"

Committee Member Fish: "Frank, one of my concerns here, this is where the CPW is holding us hostage for six years regarding my constituents in Sangaree, Tall Pines and Crowfield. Is there any consideration? They want this Letter of Intent but yet they are holding

us hostage to that water department down there. Is there anything they can put to this to make that better? That is question number one. Question number two, who is going to be the architect on this property? You have got to take a look at that.”

Mr. Carson: “The answer to the first question. I don’t have an answer to the first question. They had made an offer I think to..or suggested they might even give us the site, but they wanted some deal on another water and sanitation issue that I’m not versed on, but Mr. Martin looked into it and it certainly would not have been free property when you look at the impact to the County. To answer your question, I’m not familiar with that issue and it didn’t come up in my discussions with Charleston Water System.”

Committee Member Fish: “Hopefully, somebody would look at that. I just feel like we are always held hostage by somebody else and we always roll over to what they want. We’ve been held hostage for five years on that water and sewer project. Number two.....”

Supervisor Davis: “I want to address that particular issue. I actually approached CPW or Charleston Water System about the property and we were in the middle of negotiations or discussions, I think prior to Goose Creek exiting the effort. So I talked to them about the property and they said they would give us the land if we would delay...give them an extension on the Service Area Agreement which is what Frank said, he didn’t know about this. Their offer was to go against what you wanted. They wanted more time on the Service Area Agreement which would have delayed our ability in four years as we had that final agreement. I thought it was a joke to be honest with you. I just disregarded it and didn’t even bring it to Council. I knew you wouldn’t approve of that.”

Committee Member Fish: “So now they want to sell it to us?”

Supervisor Davis: “I don’t think they are going to donate it. I think their rules probably say they cannot donate land.”

Committee Member Fish: “It would have been nice if Council was aware of some of the projects going on. I would also admonish whoever does that, we just built two new libraries in Sangaree and Daniel Island. I would hope that we could use those same plans for this library, if that goes through. This is not a discussion, just a comment.”

Mr. Carson: “Well, we have a different architect and we have a new....maybe even more importantly, we have a new Library Director that may have some other ideas. I know there has been conversations. What is represented on the sketch plan that you have is just a conceptual plan to see whether this site is suitable or not. It has taken data from the Facilities Plan that was done after those libraries were designed. Just to put a footprint down with the basic needs and with an expansion and yes, it works. There are some constraints on this site that we perhaps didn’t have in the other sites. So that will all be looked at and put into the programming.”

Committee Member Fish: “We spent a lot of money on that. Hope it don’t happen that way. It’s the same thing with the schools. What’s wrong with a rectangular two story building

instead of making a Taj Mahal to honor somebody. What we pay an architect for that would be a disgrace if we succumb to another whole design bid and don't use what has been successful for us."

Chairman Callanan: "Frank, this Letter of Intent, we would still naturally, to protect the taxpayers, get an independent appraisal of the property, correct?"

Mr. Carson: "Yes. I've talked with them about that and they asked for the letter to tell them whether we would or we wouldn't. I said we want to reserve that right. We also have appraisal information from DOT when they acquired the right-of-way, because they had to obviously purchase the right-of-way from Charleston Water for the relocation. So, we have both of those things to take a look at to make sure it is a fair price."

Chairman Callanan: "I would think that if I were an individual purchasing a commercial piece of property, no bank in the world would allow me to do it without getting an independent appraisal. I would hope that we would provide that same protection to the taxpayers in doing that. The second question that I have, this will be funded through the General Obligation Bond. Is that correct?"

Mr. Carson: "Yes"

Chairman Callanan: "Does that General Obligation Bond...my understanding that funds the purchase of the land?"

Mr. Carson: "No, it's the land and the building."

Chairman Callanan: "And the building itself. What is the total cost of that project?"

Mr. Carson: "The allocation is \$1.4 million for the project."

Chairman Callanan: "Ok, my hope is that when we come back to us, we'll determine that whether or not we can build a library and purchase the land for \$1.4 million."

Mr. Carson: "Yes"

Chairman Callanan: "Is there any further discussion on this?"

Council Member Farley: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Callanan: "Yes, Mr. Farley"

Council Member Farley: "I'm not on that Committee, but have we tried to see if they would lease us the land for 100 years or 50 years or anything like that?"

Mr. Carson: "We haven't discussed that with them, no sir."

Council Member Farley: "I mean it's one government entity to another and I think why not bring it up and just see if they would bite it. It might work."

Mr. Carson: "I'll do that."

Ms. Donna Osborne, Library Director: "Good evening. I'm not on the agenda, but I did want to address something that had been said earlier about the two libraries that opened in 2007, the Sangaree and the Daniel Island Library. There are some beautiful features about both of those facilities. They are very attractive and bright and airy. What is not evident to the eye is that they are not as functional as we would like them to be. Neither one of those libraries have any storage. There is not a work room. There is not a staff room. There is one restroom for staff and the public. In the very, very preliminary discussions with the architect that is partnering with the primary architects, Mr. David Moore from Greenville, whose firm has built numerous libraries. They built the Greenville Library. They built the...they just finished three libraries in Florence County. They are working on several in Georgia. They built the Conway Library just recently. I feel very, very confident with their ability to bring together form and function so that we have a long term facility that staff and the public will appreciate."

Chairman Callanan: "Let me add another factor that I want you to make sure you include in that and that is price. Because both of those at Daniel Island and the Sangaree Library to my understanding, is the construction price on those came in extremely competitive. If you just add form, function and price, that to the equation when you are speaking to the architects, I don't think anyone would have a problem with it."

Ms. Osborne: "Yes, we realize that this is what we have. Thank you for hearing me."

Ms. Nicole Ewing: "Mr. Chairman? Just as a reminder to the Committee and to full Council when this matter comes up later, this doesn't bind Council to spending any particular amount of money or to the project as a whole. Obviously, all of that would have to come to you all for approval. This is just the first step in what would be many steps to come back before you."

Chairman Callanan: "Thank you. Is there any further discussion on this? (No Response) With no further discussion, all those in favor signify by saying Aye? (Ayes) Opposes Nay? (No Response) The motion carries."

It was moved by Committee Member Pinckney and seconded by Committee Member Call to **approve the Letter of Intent with Charleston Water System for the proposed Hanahan Branch Library site.** The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Callanan: "I'll entertain a motion to adjourn."

Committee Member Fish: "So move"

Committee Member C. Davis: "Second"

Chairman Callanan: "I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? (Ayes) Opposes Nay? (No response) We are adjourned."

It was moved by Committee Member Fish and seconded by Committee Member C. Davis to **adjourn** the Committee on Community Services meeting. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 8:12 pm.

February 14, 2011

Date Approved

ADDENDUM

RESCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, District No. 2

Members: Mr. Robert O. Call, Jr., District No. 3
Mrs. Cathy Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Dennis Fish, District No. 5
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, District No. 7
Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor, ex officio

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday January 24, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.**, following other scheduled committee meetings in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

AGENDA

ADD:

- C. **Consideration of expanding and/or increasing transparency** in regard to:
1. Revenue and expenditures.
 2. Posting salaries on the County Website.
 3. Make direct audio feed available.

January 21, 2011
S/Barbara B. Austin, CCC
Clerk of County Council

RESCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, District No. 2

Members: Mr. Robert O. Call, Jr., District No. 3
Mrs. Cathy Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Dennis Fish, District No. 5
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, District No. 7
Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor, ex officio

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday January 24, 2011**, at **6:00 p.m.**, following other scheduled committee meetings in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 8, 2010

A. Ms. Stacey Thomas, Airport Manager, Re: Pavement Rejuvenation – Aircraft Parking ramp and hangar area, SC Division of Aeronautics Project Program. (\$8,525.00 matching funds to come from Economic Development).

B. Mr. Frank Carson, Berkeley County Engineer, Re: Letter of Intent with Charleston Water System, proposed Hanahan Branch Library site.

January 19, 2011
S/Barbara B. Austin, CCC
Clerk of County Council